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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/558,093

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Woon Yong Lee

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EXAMINER

GISSEL, GUNNAR J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/558,093	Applicant(s) LEE, WOON YONG	
	Examiner Gunnar J. Gissel	Art Unit 2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 November 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/23/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 2 and 5 define the shape of the bracket with a shape similar to an upper case "L". It is not appropriate to use a symbol to define the shape of Applicant's invention. Applicant should rephrase the claims to use words to describe the shape of Applicant's invention. Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant refers to the bracket with a symbol similar to an upper case "L." It is permissible to use a symbol to refer to the bracket in the disclosure, but it would clarify the shape of the bracket further if the shape was described with words, instead of solely a symbol. Applicant could describe the bracket and then define the bracket as "L shaped," and refer to the bracket as such for the remainder of the disclosure.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1 329 546 A1 to Andera Ambrosi (Ambrosi).

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Regarding Claim 1, Ambrosi discloses a float switch in a washing machine comprising: a switch body forming an exterior of the float switch (Ambrosi, figure 3); a float in the switch body for moving up/down by washing water (Ambrosi, float F); a sensor for sensing a position of the float (Ambrosi, sensor M); and a water protector for preventing the washing water from infiltrating to the sensor (Ambrosi, protector N).

Regarding Claim 2, Ambrosi discloses that the water protector is an "L" shaped bracket over an upper surface of the switch body (Ambrosi, figure 3, protector N).

Regarding Claim 3, Ambrosi discloses a float switch in a washing machine comprising: a switch body divided into two sides (Ambrosi, figure 3), having a floating portion for rising up of leaked washing water (Ambrosi, area occupied by float F), and a sensor space for mounting a sensor for sensing a level of the washing water in the floating portion (Ambrosi, sensor space defined by N), both formed therein; a float in the floating portion for floating on a surface of the washing water (Ambrosi, float F); a sensor in the sensor space for measuring a height of the float (Ambrosi, sensor M); and a water protector for preventing the washing water from infiltrating into the sensor space (Ambrosi, water protector N).

Regarding Claim 4, Ambrosi discloses that the water protector is a bracket at one of the divided two sides of the switch body over the sensor space to cover a joining surface of the divided two sides of the switch body from over the joining surface (Ambrosi, bracket N).

Regarding Claim 5, Ambrosi discloses that the bracket has an "L" shape (Ambrosi, bracket N).

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Regarding Claim 6, Ambrosi discloses that the floating portion has openings in a side surface for flowing in of the washing water (Ambrosi, figure 3).

Regarding Claim 11, Ambrosi discloses a float switch in a washing machine comprising: a switch body divided into two sides (Ambrosi, figure 1), having a floating portion for rising up of leaked washing water (Ambrosi, space occupied by floating portion F), and a sensor space for mounting a sensor for sensing a level of the washing water in the floating portion (Ambrosi, sensor space formed by N), both formed therein; a float in the floating portion for floating on a surface of the washing water (Ambrosi, float F); and a sensor in the sensor space for measuring a height of the float (Ambrosi, sensor M), wherein one of the two sides of the switch body includes a portion over the sensor space extended to cover a portion of the other side of the switch body over the sensor space (Ambrosi, cover N).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7-10, 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ambrosi with teachings from DE 198 41 372 C1 to Robert Muther (Muther).

Regarding Claims 1-10, 12-15, Ambrosi discloses a device, but does not explicitly disclose a soft member connected between the two sides of the switch body,

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fastening means or a hook and a hook hole, or that the fastening means are formed over the sensor space.

Muther discloses a soft member connected between one sides of the switch body divided into two sides (Muther, soft member 2) and at least one fastening means for fastening the switch body (Muther, fastening means 5) and that the fastening means includes; a hook at one of sides of the switch body divided into two sides, and a hook hole opposite to the hook for receiving and holding the hook (Muther, hook and hook hole 5) and at least one of the fastening means is formed over the sensor space (Muther, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine Muther with teachings from Ambrosi because use of a hinge and hook to snap two halves of a casting together makes it considerably easier to cast and assemble an object, as is widely known in the art of plastic castings (for example, the air intake on a Porsche 944, designed in the late 70's).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 4,380,243 concerns a washing machine float switch. US 4,418,712 concerns a washing machine overflow sensor. US 6,147,614 concerns a float switch. US 6,810,732 concerns a water level sensor. US 4,663,540 concerns a float switch. US 3,464,437 concerns an overflow protection device.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gunnar J. Gissel whose telephone number is (571)274-3411. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571)272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GJG/

8/21/2008

/Hezron Williams/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2856